

TOWN OF NORTH
Council Meeting
October 10
7:30 p.m.
North Town Hall

Attending: Mayor Jeffcoat, Council members Cook, Drew, Gleaton and Lane
Administrator Ott, Chief Fallaw and Beth Kincaid, Town Clerk.

Mayor Jeffcoat called the general meeting of the North Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. and declared a quorum. Visitors and guests were welcomed.

Jeffcoat called for approval of the Minutes from the September 12, 2005 meeting. Drew made the motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Cook and approved unanimously by Council.

Public Presentation:

Jeffcoat welcomed Gabrielle Taylor and her father, Revered James Taylor. Ms. Taylor thanked the mayor and Council for the opportunity to address them. Ms. Taylor announced that she and her father have plans to open a community center in North. She explained she holds a MS in Social Work and is a licensed alcohol and substance abuse counselor; she also has counseling experience in HIV/AIDS issues and services. They have rented the old AmeriGas building and the plan is for the community center to provide services to children and adults such as an afternoon program for children, to include a study skills center. A day program for adults needing assistance is also planned as well as an evening program to provide opportunities to learn specific skills, such as handyman skills.

Ms. Taylor went on to say she is researching grants opportunities and is checking into government funding opportunities, and is accepting private donations. She stated they plan to coordinate efforts with the local schools and churches, while emphasizing this was not a religious organization, as they did not want people to feel that component was a requirement to benefit from the services the center would provide.

Ms. Taylor summarized by saying the goal of the center is to provide options for people in this community and "this is one of the ways we want to give back to our community that has given so much to us and others."

Citizens and council members applauded Ms. Taylor and Reverend Taylor's plan for the community center. Anyone interested in donating or providing services can contact the North Town Hall at 247-2101.

Mayor Jeffcoat recognized Sherryl Peters for a public comment. Ms. Peters explained she is currently studying Criminal Justice at Orangeburg Tech. As part of one of her classes, she participates in "ride-alongs" with various police departments. Ms. Peters thanked and commended the North Police Department as "the most pro-active, community based program I have ever ridden with." She stated "the officers are professional and exact in their duties and Chief Fallaw is generous in the opportunities he has provided her."

Water/Sewer Report:

Mr. Ott reported penalties were down some. Penalties 171, cut-offs 15, new accounts 4, reading checks 4, water leaks 19 and sewer line problems 2. There were no DHEC violations. The men also scraped weeds along the sidewalks, mowed grass along the railroad tracks, moved 1 meter, extended two water lines for the 321 project, patched a hole under the

sidewalk at Stafford and Blossom and made repairs to the well at Wolf's Crossing. Presently, there is only one of three aerators working. Cal Hartzog has been contacted to repair the other two. Mr. Hutto has finished the work on the extension of water lines for Highway 178. The sewer line extension will begin over the next few weeks. There are several sewer line taps in the way of the new storm drain for the 321 project. The Town plans to address the moving of lines as they occur.

The chipper was sold for \$5,000, which was our asking price. The money went toward the purchase of a new backhoe. Ott announced that Freddie Martino, Sr. is the Town's newest employee. He expressed the Town's pleasure in Mr. Martino's work ethic. In addition, Dale has taken over the Town water treatment, which will save money.

Police Report:

Fallow presented the police report and reviewed violations: alcohol 6, narcotic 7, weapons violations 1; Group A offenses 30, Group B 2, and Group C 62. Group C are comprised of assists, which included other agency assists, escorts and other. Traffic citations totaled 64 and there were 9 arrests. There was a checkpoint conducted on September 23 and included officers from North, Norway, Springfield and the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Department. There was one ride-along participant. Man hours for the department totaled 513.5 and included: reserve hours 9, court hours 33, and training hours 18.5. Officers completed and were qualified in semiannual firearms proficiency tests. One In-Service was held and officers continue with their field training. The annual ticket audit was completed and all tickets were accounted for. The department continues to send and follow-up on notices concerning neglected building and vacant lots and abandoned vehicles.

Fallow announced that reserve officer Keith Faulk has resigned after two years of service. Faulk averaged 35 hours per month. He will really be missed. Presently, applications for two reserve officer position are being accepted. Training will begin in the spring. All police vehicles are operational.

Old Business:

Mr. Jeffcoat presented the financial statement: Beginning balance \$148,771.65, income \$26,951.03, expenses \$81, 546.50, ending balance \$94,176.18. Some of the larger expenses included loan payment for Town Hall, equipment expenses and the upcoming audit.

The 321 Widening Project is moving along. There are some issues with the location of sewer lines and they will be dealt with as they come up. US Group has been helpful in coming up with solutions. Dale and Willie are to be commended for assuming a large part of the water management for the Town

Second reading was given to amendments to the election ordinance. A motion was made by Lane, seconded by Gleaton and approved unanimously by Council to amend sections 2.405 and 2.141. The first rescinds the requirement for the candidate's filing of a petition and goes to candidates filing only a Statement of Candidacy. The second amendment changes non-partisan elections from a majority to a plurality.

New Business:

Ms. Lane requested Council consider changing Council meeting times from 7:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. There was no second and the motion died. There was a second motion that the time changed to 7:00 p.m., the motion was seconded and passed, with one Council member opposing. Ott stated this item would be placed on the agenda next month for second reading.

Mr. Jeffcoat asked Council's consideration of CC McGregor to perform the Town's fiscal year audit. Ms. Cook made the motion that CC McGregor be retained to perform the audit, Ms. Lane seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Halloween will be observed on October 31, 2005, with Trick-or-Treating from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The Orangeburg Fine Arts Council is hosting a Festival of Trees during the holidays. Jeffcoat reported this year they wanted miniature Christmas trees. In the past, the 4-H had decorated the Mayor's wreath, and he had talked with Tammy of 4-H about decorating a tree and she said they agreed to do so. Jeffcoat said if Council approved, the Town would reimburse the 4-H. Ms. Lane made the motion to have the 4-H decorate a tree for the Town and the Town will reimburse for expenses, Gleaton seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Jeffcoat reported he and Ott attended the opening of the Community of Character seminar in Orangeburg, which was very informative. The October Community Character trait is Perseverance.

The North Christmas parade will be held on November 27, 2005. It will be followed by singing, the lighting of the North Christmas tree, and a fireworks display. The commander of the 437th Air Lift Wing, which is also over the North Air Field, was asked to serve as Grand Marshall.

September was the first month reflecting the 20% water/sewer increases. There was a delay in getting water bills out due to some sewer problems and computer glitches. The payment due date was adjusted from October 10 to October 14.

Councilwoman Deborah Cook was recognized for her time and service to the people and Town of North. Councilwoman Cook thanked the Town for the opportunity to serve. Ms. Rose Binyard is seeking the vacant Council seat, and Ms. Cook wished her success.

The Town Clock has arrived. It is in storage until the final installation site is selected.

Jeffcoat called for any public comments. One citizen asked that the financial statement be broken down to reflect payroll information

Reverend Wright reminded everyone that November 13, 2005 is designated as North's Annual Day of Fasting and Prayer. The service will be at 3:00 p.m. at North Methodist Church. Donations are welcomed and proceeds will be given to the North Cooperative Ministry Fund.

A citizen asked whether the County sends the mobile rabies vaccination team through North. Ott said he would find out.

Reverend David Lucas closed the meeting in prayer.

Council adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Kincaid